

Message Text

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14

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LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, GE, US

SUBJ: US-GDR FISHERIES AGREEMENT

1. AT GDR NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION OCT 6, FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KROLIKOWSKI AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS MOLDT AND GRUNERT SEPARATELY DISCUSSED US/GDR FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH CHARGE. NONE OF THE THREE BELIEVED IT WAS A GOOD AGREEMENT FROM THE GDR'S POINT OF VIEW, BUT FELT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY HAD TO SIGN IT. MOLDT, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LAW OF THE SEA AND FISHERIES MATTERS, SAID THE GDR FELT COMPELLED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT FOR PURELY ECONOMIC REASONS, ALTHOUGH THEY REALIZED THE AGREEMENT ITSELF DID NOT GUARANTEE THEM THE RIGHT TO AN ANNUAL CATCH. HE REITERATED, AS HE HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR COOPER (BERLIN 6390), THAT THE GDR CATCH IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC WAS PURELY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO GDR NEEDS. BOTH KROLIKOWSKI AND MOLDT EXPRESSED THE HOPES THAT SIGNING THE AGREEMENT WOULD LEAD TO A SITUATION IN WHICH THE GDR COULD CATCH AS MUCH AS THEY HAD IN THE PAST; THEY DID NOT EXPECT THEY WOULD BE PERMITTED TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THEIR CATCH. MOLDT ALSO NOTED US AND GDR NEGOTIATIONS HAD AGREED THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. PUBLICATION, HE THOUGHT, WOULD MERELY COMPLICATE THE NEXT ROUND OF

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LOS NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HE EXPECTED TO BE EVEN MORE

DIFFICULT THAN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SESSION.

2. CHARGE NOTED THAT IN NEGOTIATING SUCH AGREEMENTS, WE WERE IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION PASSED BY CONGRESS, THAT WE WERE TRYING TO BE EVEN-HANDED AND WERE NOT DISCRIMINATING AGAINST GDR. WE HAD THOUGHT, AS GDR OFFICIALS HAD SAID IN PAST, THAT THIS FIRST GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT WOULD BE A GOOD STEP IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. KROLIKOWSKI AND MOLDT TENDED TO PLAY DOWN LATTER POINT.

3. COMMENT: THE FRANKNESS WITH WHICH THESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS VOLUNTEERED THAT THEY FELT THE NECESSITY TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WHICH BRINGS THE GDR NO GUARANTEED, TANGIBLE ECONOMIC BENEFIT IS SURPRISING. IN THE SHORT TIME I HAVE BEEN HERE AND VERY LIMITED CONTACT WITH THESE PARTICULAR OFFICIALS, I HAVE HAD THE IMPRESSION THEY WOULD PREFER AVOIDING ANY SUCH ADMISSION. WHILE THE EMBASSY IS NOT IN THE BEST POSITION TO ASSESS HOW IMPORTANT THE GDR'S ANNUAL NORTH ATLANTIC CATCH IS TO GDR FOOD REQUIREMENTS, AND ASSUMING THEIR INTEREST IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC IS PRIMARILY ECONOMIC AND NOT INTELLIGENCE, THE QUESTION ARISES WHETHER WE CAN TURN THEIR APPARENT INTENSE INTEREST TO OUR ADVANTAGE. IF THE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING ANNUAL CATCHES FOR VARIOUS COUNTRIES ARE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH, WE WONDER IF WE COULD NOT MAKE THE POINT TO THE EAST GERMANS THAT THEIR PROMPT, POSITIVE RESOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN CASES WOULD BE A PLUS MARK WHICH THE DEPT. WOULD BE PREPARED TO USE AS APPROPRIATE WITH THE REGIONAL FISHERIES COUNCILS. THE APPROACH TO THE GDR WOULD BE THAT, ALTHOUGH THE DEPT. COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE GDR COULD COUNT EACH YEAR ON A QUOTA APPROXIMATING THE 320,000 TONS ALLOTTED IT IN THE PAST, US PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE GDR'S QUICK HANDLING OF HUMANITARIAN CASES COULD FAVORABLY INFLUENCE LOCAL DECISIONS ON ANNUAL QUOTAS, AND THAT THE DEPT. WOULD SEE TO IT THAT REGIONAL COUNCILS ARE AWARE OF GDR ACTIONS. A POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE OF THE ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS WOULD BE TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE GDR ON NEW HUMANITARIAN CASES IF THERE IS MERIT IN THIS APPROACH. THE DEPT. MAY WISH TO DISCUSS FOREGOING WITH AMBASSADOR COOPER DURING

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HIS CONSULTATIONS. PLEASE ADVISE.POLANSKY

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